

Message

From: Kasman, Mark [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=419892C6FDC74087B775ABB683821344-MKASMAN]
Sent: 10/29/2018 8:57:46 PM
To: McIntosh, Chad [mcintosh.chad@epa.gov]
CC: Nishida, Jane [Nishida.Jane@epa.gov]
BCC: Hill-Macon, Cam [Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov]; Almodovar, Lisa [Almodovar.Lisa@epa.gov]
Subject: Follow-Up on Colombia
Attachments: Notional Schedule_Nancy Beck and Anna Lowitt_Glyphosate.docx; 18-BOGOTA-2628.eml.pdf

Chad,

This afternoon, Cam and I participated in a call with the White House Office of the Drug Tsar (Nita Rincone) and the U.S. Embassy in Bogota (Rob Allison) to discuss the proposed mission of Nancy Beck and Anna Lowit to Colombia next week. Both offices are extremely appreciative of the responsiveness of EPA to the request to come to Colombia before the POTUS visit.

The purpose of the mission would be to follow up on Defense Secretary Mattis' commitment that EPA would assure the key players of the Colombian Government of the appropriate and safe use of glyphosate as the Colombian Government reintroduces its campaign to eradicate coca crops. The Embassy proposes a meeting with Ambassador Whitaker and then meetings with the National Drug Council (which includes several ministries), Minister of Justice, Minister of Defense, Minister of Environment, and the Office of the President.

Nancy had asked us to look at a visit which would have her back in time for a murder board for the Administrator on Thursday, November 8th in advance of a Congressional hearing. The schedule would have the delegation depart/arrive Bogota on Monday, November 5th and meetings with Ambassador that afternoon. The Colombian Government meetings would take place on Tuesday, and return to Washington on the morning of Wednesday, November 7th. I have attached a notional schedule for your information.

The Embassy wants to keep this visit out of the press. They recommend as small a delegation as possible. Anna agreed that the only technical expertise needed was Nancy and herself. The Embassy informed us that the Regional Security Officer is going to contact EPA PSD to say that the Embassy would be able to take care of security needs for the delegation. The meetings will all be in hardened and secured locations, Embassy and Ministry buildings. They are a large Embassy and have enough bandwidth to cover. While they will do whatever EPA wants, they do not believe it is warranted to send EPA security. I explained that the decision will be made at a higher level than us, but gave EPA Special Agent Mark Pruitt a heads-up. Mark has been in touch with us to learn what the outlines of a mission might look like.

While the Embassy also said they would welcome OITA if EPA made that decision, they suggested that another time would be better. They again emphasized that a smaller footprint would keep the delegation at a lower profile and make it easier to make the movements in a expeditious and secure manner.

A follow-up call is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. While it is clear that the Embassy and seemingly the Office of the Drug Tsar prefer an EPA delegation of two, we stand ready to support the mission whatever its footprint.

Mark

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